

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) ~~A material strength measuring and evaluating apparatus which functions by detecting charged particles~~ The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the indentation load detector is an electronic balance positioned below the test object.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) ~~A material strength measuring and evaluating apparatus which functions by detecting charged particles~~ The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the displacement detector is a light reflection intensity meter or a light interference meter each ~~capable of~~ for measuring a relative displacement of the indenter with respect to the test object.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the Abstract at page 21 in its entirety (do not delete the header) and substitute therefore:

A material strength measuring and evaluating method for measuring and evaluating of at least one of a peel strength and a fragility breaking strength of a fragile thin film. The method includes pressing an indenter into a test object and measuring an indentation load and an indentation depth, while at the same time detecting charged particles emitted from a peel starting point or a breakage starting point, specifying a peel occurring time and a fragility breaking time when charged particles are increased, and measuring a the at least one of peel strength and the fragility breaking strength.